

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A method for providing backup electronic messaging services to wireless devices during outages, comprising:

sending email messages from a primary email system to a user's wireless device;

when said primary email system is unavailable, redirecting said email messages from said primary email system to a secondary email system and from said secondary email system to said user's wireless device;

notifying said user that said email messages are available on said user's wireless device through said secondary email system at such time as said redirection of said email messages has been implemented;

at such time as said primary email service becomes available, redirecting said email messages from said secondary email system to said primary email system and from said primary email system to said user's wireless device;

notifying said user that said email messages are available on said user's wireless device through said primary email system at such time as said redirection of said email messages has been implemented; and

synchronizing said email messages received on said secondary email system while said primary email system was unavailable with the messages in said primary email system.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said primary email system is located remotely from said secondary email system and is interconnected to said secondary email system through the Internet.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a the determination of when said primary email system is unavailable is performed manually by assessing whether an error message has been received indicating an inability to deliver an email message to said primary email system.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said email messages to all addresses on said primary email system are automatically redirected to said secondary email system at any time any of said email addresses on said primary email system are unavailable.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said email messages to all email addresses on said primary email system are redirected to said secondary email system after some, but less than all, of said email messages are unavailable.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of notifying said user that said email messages are available on said secondary email system further includes the automated delivery of a preexisting notification email message to an alternate email address for said users.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein assessing the time at which said primary email system is available includes periodically pinging email addresses on said primary email system and evaluating whether a response is received from said email addresses.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said notification of said user that said email messages are again available on said primary email system consists of the automated delivery of a preexisting notification email message to an alternate email address for said user.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the ability to redirect said email messages from said primary email system to said secondary email system is password protected.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein one or more of said wireless devices is selected from the group consisting of personal digital assistant devices, cell phones and pagers.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for intercepting and redirecting email messages to wireless devices ~~during an outage of the primary email system~~, comprising:

intercepting email messages responsive to detection of an outage of a primary email system during an outage of the company's primary email system, intercepting email messages prior to such time as said email messages pass through a the company's firewall, wherein said step of intercepting is performed during said outage of the primary email system; and  
redirecting said email messages to a pre-specified alternate location; and  
delivering said email messages from said pre-specified alternate location to said wireless devices.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for intercepting and redirecting email messages to wireless devices ~~during an outage of the primary email system~~, comprising:

intercepting email messages responsive to detection of an outage of a primary email system during an outage of the company's primary email system, intercepting email messages intended for a primary email system after said email messages pass through a said company's firewall, but before said email messages enter said primary email system, wherein said step of intercepting is performed during said outage of the primary email system; and

redirecting said email messages to a pre-specified alternate location; and

delivering said email messages from said pre-specified alternate location to said wireless devices.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said step method of intercepting email messages after said email messages pass through the a company's firewall operates integrally with the company's anti-virus or anti-spam application.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for intercepting and redirecting email messages to wireless devices ~~during an outage of the primary email system~~, comprising:

intercepting email messages responsive to detection of an outage of a primary email system during an outage of the company's primary email system, intercepting email messages intended for a primary email system after said email messages enter said primary email system, but before said email messages leave an the Internet mail connector, wherein said step of intercepting is performed during said outage of the primary email system; and

redirecting said email messages to a pre-specified alternate location; and

delivering said email messages from said pre-specified alternate location to said wireless devices.

15. (Currently amended) A method for intercepting and redirecting email messages to wireless devices ~~during an outage of the primary email system~~, comprising:

during an outage of a company's primary email system, intercepting, responsive to detection of an outage of a primary email system, email messages directed to non-functioning addresses within the a primary email system on a real-time basis, wherein said step of intercepting is performed during said outage of the primary email system; and

redirecting said email messages to an alternate location; and  
delivering said email messages from said pre-specified alternate location to said wireless devices.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for intercepting and redirecting email messages to wireless devices ~~during an outage of the primary email system~~, comprising:

~~during an outage of a company's primary email system; intercepting, responsive to detection of an outage of a primary email system,~~ email messages intended for ~~the~~ a primary email system within an email application through the use of an event sink designed to inspect email message traffic; and

~~redirect or copy~~ redirecting said email messages to an alternate location; and  
delivering said email messages from said pre-specified alternate location to said wireless devices.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for intercepting and redirecting email messages to wireless devices ~~during an outage of the primary email system~~, comprising:

~~during an outage of the company's primary email system, redirecting, responsive to detection of an outage of a primary email system,~~ email messages intended to be delivered to said primary email system to an SMTP host; and with a lower priority designation  
wherein said redirected email messages have a low priority designation.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for intercepting and redirecting email messages to wireless devices ~~during an outage of the primary email system~~, comprising:

~~during an outage of the company's primary email system, changing a the domain name system designation of a said primary email system responsive to detection of an outage of the primary email system;~~  
~~directing so that inbound email messages are directed to an alternate facility; and~~  
delivering said email messages from said pre-specified alternate location to said wireless devices.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering backup messages to wireless devices, comprising:

maintaining a mapping of alternate email addresses of the wireless devices;

~~upon an outage of the primary path for delivering, via said alternate email address, the email messages to said wireless device responsive to detection of an outage of a primary email system; and, forwarding said email messages to said wireless device through said alternate email address.~~

~~wherein said step of delivering is performed during said outage of said primary path for delivering said email messages.~~

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method according to claim 19, further for delivering backup messages to wireless devices, comprising:~~

~~pulling messages from a mailbox within a secondary email system to the a wireless device.~~

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said mailbox is a pop3 mailbox.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said mailbox is an imap4 mailbox.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A system for providing backup electronic messaging services to wireless devices during outages, comprising:

~~a wireless device;~~

~~a primary email system, wherein said primary email system is configured for delivering the delivery of email messages to said wireless devices device;~~

~~a secondary email system, wherein, said secondary email system is configured for delivering said the delivery of email messages to said wireless devices device at such time as said primary email system is unavailable; and,~~

~~at such time as said primary email system becomes unavailable, users the user of said wireless devices are device is notified that said primary email system is unavailable; and~~

~~at such time as said primary email service again becomes available, redirecting said email messages from said secondary email system back to said primary email system for delivery to said wireless devices device, notifying said users user that said email messages are available on said user's wireless device through said primary email system, and synchronizing~~

said email messages received on said secondary email system while said primary email system was unavailable with the messages in said primary email system.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein said primary email system is located remotely from said secondary email system and is interconnected to said secondary email system through the Internet.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein said system is adapted to manually detect wherein said step of detecting when said primary email system is unavailable is performed manually by assessing whether an error message has been received indicating an inability to deliver said email messages to said primary email system.

28. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein said email messages to all addresses on said primary email system are automatically redirected to said secondary email system at-any time any of said email addresses on said primary email system are unavailable.

29. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein said email messages to all email addresses on said primary email system are redirected to said secondary email system after some, but less than all, of said email messages are unavailable.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein said notification to ~~of~~ said user that said email messages are available on said secondary email system further includes an ~~the~~ automated delivery of a preexisting notification email message to an alternate email address for said users.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein assessing a ~~the~~ time at which said primary email system is available includes periodically pinging an email addresses on said primary email system and evaluating whether a response is received from said email addresses.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein ~~said step of~~ notifying said user that said email messages are again available on said primary email system consists of the automated delivery of a preexisting notification email message to an alternate email address for said user.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein an ~~the~~ ability to redirect said email messages from said primary email system to said secondary email system is password protected.

34. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein one or more of said wireless devices is selected from the group consisting of personal digital assistant devices, cell phones and pagers.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A system for intercepting and redirecting email messages to wireless devices during an outage of a ~~the~~ primary email system, comprising:

a primary email system;

wherein during an outage of said primary email system, a customer mail stream service for intercepting, during said outage of the primary email system, email messages intended for said primary email system are intercepted after said email messages pass through a company's firewall, but before said email messages enter said primary email system; and, and

wherein the customer mail stream service is adapted to redirect said email messages are redirected to a pre-specified alternate location.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended) A system for intercepting and redirecting email messages to wireless devices during an outage of a ~~the~~ primary email system, comprising:

a primary email system;

wherein during an outage of said primary email system, an Internet mail connector for intercepting, during said outage of the primary email system, email messages intended for said primary email system are intercepted after said email messages enter said primary email system, but before said email messages leave the Internet mail connector; and, and

wherein the Internet mail connector is adapted to redirect said email messages are redirected to a pre-specified alternate location.

39. (Currently amended) A system for intercepting and redirecting email messages to wireless devices during an outage of a ~~the~~ primary email system, comprising:

a primary email system;

~~wherein during an outage of said primary email system, a message routing functionality for intercepting, during said outage of the primary email system, email messages directed to non-functioning addresses in said primary email system are intercepted on a real-time basis; and~~

wherein the message routing functionality is adapted to redirect said email messages redirected to an alternate location.

40-48. (Canceled)